

Point of View

Editorial

Some few years ago, Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Publisher Ed Brown, while managing KVOV Radio here, ventured an idea of naming a street or throughfare after the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Listeners were urged to write letters or cards supporting the effort to rename Owens Avenue from Las Vegas Blvd. north to Rancho road as Dr. Martin Luther King Drive.

There was interesting response at the time, but the timing was not right. There was no official holiday honoring Dr. King. The general public interest had not reached a pinnacle of fully honoring Dr. King. So, at the time there was not sufficient support to follow through on the idea.

Our reasoning for naming the corridor was the feeling that it would be easier for the postal department to administer the change; it would be easier for the populace to identify with that locale and the future development of that sector for businesses and projects could reach dynamic proportions.

It will be interesting to see how this latest development furthered by Josh Elliott and committees will be accepted.

It appears now to rest in the Las Vegas City Council's hands and the populace as a whole.

The horseshoe shaped concept will need a lot of surveys from the populace before any acceptances can be generated.

*" We will win
our freedom because the
sacred heritage of our
nation and the eternal will
of God are embodied in
our echoing demands. "*

Martin Luther King Jr.

The Foundation of Your Child's Education is
IN THE HOME



National Black Leadership Family Assembly Outlines Political Thrust

By Rhoda McKinney
NNPA National Correspondent

Washington D.C.--Gaining black political power and harnessing the black vote for 1986 Senate races were the topics of a recent two-day conference held on Capitol Hill to outline and devise campaign strategies for those candidates competing for seats in the upcoming November elections.

C. Delores Tucker, chair of the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus and the architect for the brainstorming meeting, urged the 40 invited political, religious, social, business and civic leaders to return their communities and encourage supports to cast their votes. But the main thrust of the National Black Leadership Family assembly was to give voice and economic support to black candidates who would otherwise have limited financial resources to run for political office.

We do not want to repeat the lessons of the post-reconstruction era," said Tucker warning the audience. "I'm tired of this struggle but as long as you're moving down the road to freedom, I'm with you."

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic National

Committee, co-sponsors for the National Black Leadership Family conference, updated the group on their various activities on the Hill and offered support.

William H. Gray III (D-Pa-2), chairman of the House of Budget Committee, stressed the need for more black political officials and talked about the declining economy.

"I know we've been told that America is back and everything is rosy," he said. "But in reality, if we look at the economic indicators we do not see a rosy economy. Deficits are not good for economic growth, job creativity and productivity. They have a negative effect on those situated at the end of the economic totem pole."

The conference was also sponsored and fully funded by the newly formed Bethune-DuBois Fund, named after the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Jesse Hill, chief executive officer of Atlanta Life Insurance, serves as chair of the Bethune-DuBois board. Tucker, the creator of the Fund said, it was established as a vehicle for expanding the participation

and facilitating the empowerment of blacks in the political arena.

The organization's agenda included establishing a political action committee (PAC) to provide direct financial support to black candidates running for the U.S. Senate and Congress; to recruit and train young black professionals for involvement in the political process; and to create an issue-oriented research and policy fellows programs at a black college in the honor of Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Ca.)

"When you lift up your leadership, you lift up your people," said Hill. "This is not a partisan issue. We were not born Democrats. We were not born Republicans. We were born black and that is what this meeting is all about -- black issues."

According to research gathered by the Joint Center for Political Studies, in Washington D.C., many elections have been won by a margin of five percent or less, making the black vote key in close senatorial races in communities where blacks make up more than five percent of a state's total voting age population. In 1980, almost half the seats up for election were won by less than five percent.

The National Black Leadership Family concluded that from August until November ten states would be targeted for voter concentration, education and registration; Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Tucker said these states were chosen because their black voting age population has the potential of becoming the decisive factor in the election of candidates.

Special emphasis would be placed on three Congressional races; Faye Williams, from the eighth district in Louisiana, Michael Espy, the second district in Mississippi and Robert Scott of the first district of Virginia.

"In these states the black vote can make a difference," Tucker said, emphasizing community cooperation and "operational unity," a phrase used frequently during Jesse Jackson's first National Rainbow Coalition Convention. "We didn't select South Dakota because we cannot make a difference."

Tactics decided upon to get people to the polls, included the use of the radio and television public service announcements, commentaries in black newspapers, newsletters and press releases.

Business In the Black

Black America Standing in a Wake
The Tax Bill Cometh

by Charles E. Belle
Business Editor

My body is a torn mattress, Disheveled throbbing place For the comings and goings Of loveless transients...Before completely objective mirrors

I have shot myself with my eyes. But death refused my advances...

Bob Kaufman, 1921-86

Lamenting the languishing look of the Black American people promises no hope, but neither does the President, Senate or House tax bill proposals. Poor people's problems are not a priority concern of the current configurations in Congress. Come fall the final draft of "disillusion on paper" for the working and

middle class of America will be presented for an eager, innocent or evil President to ink. In no part of the President's distorted dream of a tax proposal bill is there a plan to decrease the number of homeless, jobless or needy. It is the essence of the President's ideology to insulate the rich from sharing with the poor.

The main idea of the President's tax bill was and is to reduce the amount of government assistance from an extremely wealthy class to any other class -- working or not. The tax brackets under discussion for the workers versus the wealthy reflect this insidious incision into the heart of the working class. The average working class household with under \$30,000 per year income will be in at least the minimum tax bracket of 15%, without its necessity deductions for housing, medical, etc. which effectively had them in that same bracket in the past. While the wealthy, who earn in excess of \$100,000 a year will settle in at no more than 37%, or almost half, 50%

less than their contribution to the federal coffers prior to Ronald Reagan taking office. Obviously this sharp drop in revenue to the federal budget is the basis for the bludgeoning cuts in social welfare services to the sea of jobless, homeless people.

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The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all views from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number, if any. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

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